CLAIMS

I claim:

1.   A word puzzle game comprising:

a grid of blank answer spaces for entering at least a first answer to a first puzzle clue in a first space and a second answer to a second puzzle clue in a second space; and

a reference mark relating the first space to the second space.

2.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, wherein the grid of blank answer spaces includes a perimeter and the reference mark is within the perimeter.

3.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, wherein the reference mark includes a symmetric pattern.

4.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, wherein the grid of blank answer spaces includes a midpoint, and the symmetric pattern is rotationally symmetric with respect to the midpoint.

5.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 4, wherein the grid of blank spaces includes a central axis and the first space is located on one side of the central axis and the second space is located on the opposite side of the central axis, and the location of the second space is rotationally symmetric to the location of the first space with respect to the midpoint.

6.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 5, wherein the location of the first space and the symmetric location of the second space correspond to a same color in the symmetric pattern.

7.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 4, wherein the symmetric pattern includes a first colored shape and a second, same colored shape, and a location of the first colored shape in the grid of blank spaces is rotationally symmetric with respect to the midpoint to a location of the second, same colored shape in the grid of blank spaces.

8.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, wherein the reference mark includes symmetric coordinates that indicate grid coordinates for at least a portion of the grid of blank answer spaces, and the grid coordinates of the first space correspond to the grid coordinates of the second space.

9.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 8, wherein the symmetric coordinates include at least one of a symbol, color, number, and letter.

10.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 8, wherein the symmetric coordinates of the first space include at least one grid coordinate that is equal to a grid coordinate of the second space.

11.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, including a gaming surface for displaying the grid of blank answer spaces and the reference mark, the gaming surface comprising at least one of an electronic screen, erasable surface, inlaid surface, or printed surface.

12.   The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, wherein the grid of blank answer spaces includes a first playing area for playing a word game using a first number of puzzle clues and a second, smaller playing area within the first playing area for playing the word game using a second, smaller number of puzzle clues.

13.   A method of determining a location of a symmetrically located space on a word puzzle game comprising:

(a) determining a location of a first answer space in a grid of blank answer

5   spaces;

(b) associating the location of the first answer space with a reference mark; and

(c) determining a location in the grid of blank answer spaces of a second answer space based upon the association of the location of the first answer space with

10   the reference mark.

14.   The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said step (a) includes determining an answer to a puzzle clue to determine the location of the first answer space.

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15.   The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said step (b) includes associating the location of the first answer space with at least one of a symmetric pattern within the grid of blank answer spaces or symmetric coordinates indicating grid locations for at least a portion of the grid of blank answer spaces.

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16.   The method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said step (c) includes associating the location of the first answer space with a first colored shape of the symmetric pattern.

25   17.   The method as recited in Claim 16, wherein said step (c) includes determining a location of a second, corresponding colored shape of the symmetric pattern in the grid of blank answer spaces.

18.   The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein said step (c) includes

30   associating the location of the second answer space with the corresponding, second colored shape to determine the location of the second answer space in the grid of blank answer spaces.

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19.   The method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said step (c) includes associating the location of the first answer space with first coordinates of the symmetric coordinates and determining second, corresponding coordinates based upon the first coordinates.

20.   The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein said step (c) includes associating the location of the second answer space with the second, corresponding coordinates to determine the location of the second answer space in the grid of blank answer spaces.